

# **THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST**

**ISSUED BY THE  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

**20 NOVEMBER 1963**  
**~~TOP SECRET~~**

1. Iraq-Syria

a. Although sporadic gunfire continued through the night in Baghdad, the army is in control.

b. Arif has plans to announce the make-up of his cabinet today. It will probably contain some "mild" Baathists.

c. He permitted Syrian strongman Hafiz and Michel Aflaq, the founder of the Baath Party, who were caught in Baghdad by the coup, to fly back to Damascus yesterday after the Syrian radio suddenly stopped vilifying the newest Iraqi regime.

d. Arif and his colleagues obviously hope to reach an understanding with the Syrian regime. We doubt very much if they are interested, however, in the meaningful political and military unity the previous regime was aiming for.

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## 2. Venezuela

a. The Communist effort to frustrate the presidential election (1 December) continues.

b. An illegal transmitter was heard yesterday in Caracas calling for a 48-hour general strike and urging listeners to arm themselves against the Betancourt government.

c. Roving bands of Communist-led terrorists sought to enforce the generally unsuccessful strike with gunfire. There were at least nine deaths (some reports go as high as 19). Guerrilla activity in rural areas is also being stepped up.

d. The government has jailed an added 200 extremists in the wake of yesterday's violence and plans are afoot to detain 1,500 more.

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## 3. South Vietnam

a. Ton That Dinh, whom we had earlier identified as the least reliable of the generals' group, is trying to use his position as security minister to build himself an independent political base.

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b. He has been visiting provincial cities to "explain" the military takeover and receive expressions of loyalty. He has continued to spread the idea that the coup was largely his own doing.

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5. Egypt

a. Pamphlets and posters bitterly lampooning Nasir, especially for his involvement in Yemen and Algeria, have appeared on the streets of Cairo and Suez.

b. Such public expression of anti-Nasir sentiment is highly unusual.

c. It is still in a very low key, however, and there is no sign of organized opposition.

d. We do not consider Nasir to be in any immediate danger of overthrow, though he could be forced to modify unpopular policies if the discontent spreads.

6. Bolivia

a. The return last week of Vice President Lechin, who has been on ice as Bolivia's ambassador in Rome, will heat things up in La Paz.

b. The city has already witnessed four minor demonstrations which Embassy La Paz attributes to left-wingers encouraged by Lechin's presence.

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7. Cambodia

a. Sihanouk may have finally painted himself into a corner on US aid.

b. He has followed up yesterday's emotional public renunciation with an official request to our embassy for talks on the subject.

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c. We are always reluctant to predict just what Sihanouk will do next, but he may hope, perhaps expect, that the US will press him to retain some of our aid, even on his terms.

NOTES

- A. Congo [redacted] Adoula will finally announce this morning the expulsion of all personnel of the Soviet and Czech embassies. This move has been hanging fire ever since security officials turned up evidence several weeks ago implicating personnel of these embassies in antigovernment activities. [redacted]

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- C. Sino-Soviet Peiping has been quick to exploit the opening provided by Barghoorn's release. To the Chinese this affair is an object lesson in how Khrushchev knuckles under to US pressure without getting a thing in return.

- D. USSR-Cuba [redacted] passenger ships [redacted] have docked and departed. Some of them brought in rotational troops and all of them took out Soviet personnel. [redacted]

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[redacted] it is possible that as many Soviets went out as came in. [redacted]

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F. Japan Ikeda does not appear to be in any particular trouble in tomorrow's elections. The long-range trend toward the left in popular vote will probably be apparent, but Ikeda's Liberal Democratic Party should retain a safe majority in the next Diet. The leftists have tried to turn rising prices and last week's twin disasters into election ammunition, but without marked success.

G. Indonesia Djakarta is trying to round up support for making Sukarno's little Olympics, the "Games of the New Emerging Forces," a permanent thing.

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I. Brazil A new round of army promotions and shifts in command are due. Anti-Goulart elements ranks will be further thinned. Congenital plotters on the far right are talking coup.

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For The President Only - Top Secret